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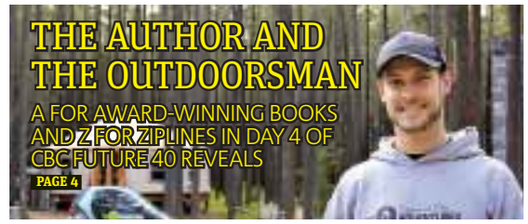
Redford resigns amid turmoil

Scandal-plagued Alberta premier says she gave her 'heart and soul' to the province PAGE 3

With a little help from his frenemy

Kenny (Hotz) and Spenny (Rice) take questions and bust myths on their Canadian club tour PAGE 8



THE AUTHOR AND THE OUTDOORSMAN

A FOR AWARD-WINNING BOOKS AND Z FOR ZIPLINES IN DAY 4 OF CBC FUTURE 40 REVEALS PAGE 4

Budget: $71M surplus, no new taxes

Premier Brad Wall shakes hands with Finance Minister Ken Krawetz after he delivered the provincial budget at the Saskatchewan legislature in Regina on Wednesday. MICHAEL BELL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sask. government's $14B spending plan. Opposition NDP charge that tight budget leaves only 'crumbs' for families

MARCO VIGLIOTTI
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The Saskatchewan Party government is holding the line on taxes and reporting a narrow $71-million surplus in its 2014-15 draft provincial budget.

Finance Minister Ken Krawetz tabled the $14-billion spending plan at the legislature on Wednesday, confirming what government officials have been suggesting for weeks about modest expenditures.

"This budget will keep Saskatchewan on the path of steady growth," Krawetz told reporters before reading the budget in the house.

"It controls spending, while still making important investments in infrastructure ... and people."

Despite Premier Brad Wall's recent public musing on a potential hike to the education property tax, Krawetz said the government has opted not to hike rates to make up for an expected drop in revenue.

"Our preference will always be to balance the budget by controlling spending," he explained.

"That's why there are no tax increases in the budget."

Government revenue is projected to drop by 0.7 per cent, with income from the Crown and insurance sector falling by nearly $200 million.

Revenue from non-renewable resources is up slightly under the plan, which Krawetz attributed to gains in oil and gas offsetting declines from the potash sector.

To maintain a balanced budget, total spending has been cut by $28 million, representing a 0.2 per cent drop.

"Some areas funded by government are receiving less than what they asked for," Krawetz acknowledged.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) lauded the budget as a step in the right direction.

"We're pleased to see there are no tax increases," said CTF Prairies region director Colin Craig.

The opposition New Democrats, however, charged that the budget does little for the majority of Saskatchewan residents.

"The message this budget sends everyday families is to brace themselves," NDP finance critic Trent Wotherspoon said, adding that its "crumbs for real families" don't include new money for seniors care.

The budget is different from those of previous years in being tabled as a single summary plan — a change that has pleased acting provincial auditor Judy Ferguson, who said it helps in "eliminating confusion and helping legislators and the public better understand the government's finances."

Not taking a hike

"Our preference will always be to balance the budget by controlling spending."

Finance Minister Ken Krawetz on why there are no tax increases in the budget

MORE BUDGET COVERAGE, PAGE 2

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NEWS 1

NDP health critic Danielle Chartier alleges that the government is gutting funding to health regions and cancer agency by requiring both to seek significant cost savings. SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO

Health region funding increased

Budget. NDP health critic spins extra $107.7M as a decrease

MARCO VIGLIOTTI
marco.vigliotti@metronews.ca

The government of Saskatchewan is pledging to increase funding to the province's regional health authorities by $107.5 million — to $3.25 billion — under its draft budget released on Wednesday.

"Those are significant increases," Finance Minister Ken Krawetz said, adding that funding for the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency is set to grow by 3.3 per cent to $155.7 million.

NDP health critic Danielle Chartier, however, alleges that the government is actually gutting that funding by requiring health regions and the cancer agency to seek significant cost savings.

"The reality is this government is telling regional health authorities and the cancer agency that they need to find more than $51 million in efficiencies," Chartier said.

Chartier also accused Premier Brad Wall's administration of failing to put any new money into improving seniors care homes.

Health Minister Dustin Duncan, meanwhile, countered that the government is putting additional resources into seniors care. He noted that the province has $3.7 million in the budget to address pressing concerns at long-term homes as part of its urgent-care action fund.

"Those dollars weren't in place last year, but they are now," Duncan explained.

The government has also committed $1.5 million to a health-care pilot project in Regina and Saskatoon, aiming to reduce emergency wait times and allow more patients to stay at home.

Wall said the proposed "hot-spotting" program will better address the needs of frequent users of health-care services.

According to government estimates, one per cent of patients account for 21 per cent of all hospital costs in Saskatchewan.

Sask. saw strong but slower growth rate

Saskatchewan experienced the second-highest population growth rate of all Canadian provinces in 2013, but its increase was lower than that of previous years.

The province's population grew by 20,056 last year to a total of 1,117,503, according to figures released by Statistics Canada on Wednesday.

"We have put the boom and bust cycle behind us and today, Saskatchewan's growth is strong and steady," Premier Brad Wall said in a prepared statement.

Denis Hubert, a population analyst with Statistics Canada, notes that Saskatchewan has seen unprecedented growth of more than 20,000 people in each of the past two years.

"This is the second year that the province has grown by more than 20,000 since 1971," Hubert said.

The population growth last year, however, is smaller than the province's increase of 21,256 people in 2012.

Saskatchewan's growth rate in 2013 — 1.83 per cent — is second to that of Alberta among the provinces.

Saskatchewan and Alberta are also the only provinces to have experienced a net interprovincial in-migration last year. Every other province lost more people to other parts of Canada than it gained.

Saskatchewan's growth in 2013 consists of a net international migration of 13,108, net interprovincial migration of 1,368 and a natural increase in births minus deaths of 5,580, according to the government.

"Large amounts of people used to immigrate to Ontario, but now they're going to Saskatchewan," Hubert said. "That a really good sign that the province has a good and growing economy." SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO

Meningitis

WHL player Tim Bozon getting better: Saskatoon Health Region

A Montreal Canadiens prospect hospitalized with meningitis has been moved out of the intensive care unit and been upgraded to stable condition.

A statement released Wednesday by the Saskatoon Health Region said Tim Bozon's condition continues to improve and he has been moved into one of the hospital wards. Bozon, who plays for the Western Hockey League's Kootenay Ice, was first admitted to Royal University Hospital on March 1.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

15 per cent

U of R applications on the rise

The University of Regina is seeing a 15 per cent increase in applications. SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO

Applications for the University of Regina's fall 2014 semester have increased by 15 per cent over last year.

So far, approximately 13,500 students have registered at the U of R for the fall semester.

More than 80 per cent of the increase is due to a hike in applications from international students.

The number of international students increased by 17 per cent at the undergraduate level this year, while they also represent 30 per cent of the graduate students on campus.

"We are pleased that so many new international students have chosen to pursue their educations here," said U of R president Vianne Timmons.

"With the new residence set to open in 2015, we will be able to provide even more support to our incoming students."

SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO

Joe Oliver. New finance minister plans to 'continue the government's agenda'

For a time, the Conservative government used something called "event in a box" to help guide MPs on public announcements, a ready-made communications kit that could be rolled out with no fuss, no muss.

As Joe Oliver stepped into the Finance portfolio Wednesday, replacing Jim Flaherty, some wondered whether he would be given any latitude, or simply be rolling out a pre-election package.

"My overarching priority is to continue the government's agenda of creating jobs and growth right across the country," Oliver said in an interview.

Oliver will preside over just one federal budget before the fall 2015 election, one that is guaranteed to feature a surplus for the first time since 2007.

Joe Oliver was sworn in as finance minister Wednesday in Ottawa. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Whatever moves Oliver makes will be done at least partly in the context of electoral strategy and the shape of the next Conservative platform, elements highly controlled by the prime minister and party headquarters. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crime. Woman arranged murder of parents to stay with boyfriend, court told

A woman plotted to have her parents killed in a staged home invasion because they forbade her from seeing the man she loved, but her plan started to unravel when her father survived the attack, prosecutors alleged Wednesday.

Jennifer Pan hatched the plan after her parents made her choose between them and her high school sweetheart, co-accused Daniel Wong, Crown lawyer Jennifer Halajian told a Toronto-area court in her opening statement.

Pan, Wong and three other men — Eric Carty, Lenford Crawford and David Mylvaganam — are charged with first-degree murder in the death of her mother, 53-year-old Bieh Ha Pan, and attempted murder in the shooting of her father, Huei Hann Pan.

Quoted

"As long as her parents were alive, that hope was dead."

Crown lawyer Jennifer Halajian, who said in her opening statement that Pan hoped to spend the rest of her life with Daniel Wong

While they didn't all pull the trigger, each "participated in carrying out Jennifer Pan's plan to murder her parents," Halajian said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alberta Premier Alison Redford announces her resignation in Edmonton on Wednesday. Redford has been struggling to deal with unrest in her Progressive Conservative caucus over her leadership style and questionable expenses. JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alberta premier stepping down

Effective Sunday. Weeks of turmoil over lavish spending culminate in Alison Redford announcing her resignation

Alberta Premier Alison Redford is resigning.

Redford has been struggling to deal with unrest in her Progressive Conservative caucus over her leadership style and questionable expenses. She says her resignation will be effective Sunday.

"Quite simply, I am not prepared to allow party and caucus infighting to get in the way," she told supporters gathered in the legislature rotunda for the announcement. "I've given my heart and soul to this province, every minute for the last two and a half years."

Redford could not weather weeks of revelations of lavish spending. It began when it surfaced that she had spent $45,000 on first-class air tickets and a government plane to go to Nelson Mandela's funeral in South Africa.

Other revelations fell like hammer blows: Redford using government planes for a vacation; to fly her daughter and her daughter's friends around; to go to a family funeral in Vancouver.

There were calls for Redford to repay the money for the South Africa trip. She only did so after caucus tensions spilled into the public realm.

Last week, things went from bad to worse when Redford's character came into question.

Calgary backbencher Len Webber quit the Tory caucus, saying he could no longer stomach Redford's temper tantrums and abuse of subordinates. She wasn't a "nice lady," he said.

On the weekend, Redford was taken to task by Progressive Conservative party executive in a closed-door meeting. They emerged to say Redford would be given an unspecified "work plan" to follow.

The turmoil continued.

On Sunday, 10 government members met to debate whether to leave caucus and sit as Independents.

On Monday, Donna Kennedy-Glans, the associate minister for electricity, quit saying the promised reforms by Redford were dying on the vine.

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JACOB MORGAN/METRO
WITH FILES FROM CBC

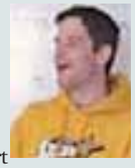
1 Name: Alice Kuipers
Age: 35
Category: Arts, Culture and Entertainment

Alice is the author of several acclaimed books for children including 40 Things I Want To Tell You (2012), The Worst Thing She Ever Did (2010) and Life on the Refrigerator Door (2007). She has won numerous awards such as an Arthur Ellis Award for The Worst Thing She Ever Did and a Saskatchewan First Book Award for Life on the Refrigerator Door. Locally, Alice is a participant and supporter of the Saskatoon Word on the Street festival and served on the YWCA board of directors for six years. She was the 2010 Saskatoon Public Library's writer in residence.

2 Name: DeeAnn Mercier
Age: 28
Category: Community Leadership

DeeAnn is the communications co-ordinator at Lighthouse Supported Living in Saskatoon. She has helped spearhead the Up campaign to renovate the Lighthouse and expand its emergency shelters, and partnered with the Bridge Fellowship Centre to hold the city's first Coldest Night of the Year walk, which raised more than $52,000. In addition, DeeAnn is devoted to arts and culture in the community. She recently co-produced a Live Five theatre production and sits on the board of Nuit Blanche Saskatoon.

3 Name: Adam Ward
Age: 36
Category: Teaching and Health Care



Adam is a Grade 8 teacher at the Sacred Heart Community School in Regina. Every year, Adam Ward heads the Giftstone Project around Christmas. Students from Grades 4 to 8 write a letter to Santa and Adam reaches out to the community for funds. He then personally shops for each gift. Adam also motivates the whole school to read as the "Golden Boy Reader." He designs a yellow T-shirt with First Nations imagery for students who accomplish their reading goals. Many kids have received the coveted yellow shirt.

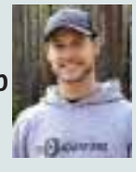
4 Name: Max FineDay
Age: 22
Category: Community Leadership

Max is from the Sweetgrass First Nation and currently serves as president of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union. He was elected at a difficult time for the university, with the campus rocked by cutbacks and the TransformUS process, and built relationships with student groups to have their voices heard. At the same time, Max has brought practical student issues to the table including the introduction of a reading week in the fall term. He successfully represents the interests of First Nations and Métis students while also speaking for all students on campus.

5 Name: Erica Lee
Age: 23
Category: Community Leadership

A student at the University of Saskatchewan, Erica led the effort to change the offensive Redmen team name and logo at Bedford Road Collegiate Institute. Erica is also an important voice in the Idle No More movement. In the fall of 2012, she spoke at the first Idle No More teach-in at Station 20 West in Saskatoon. Since then, Erica has been recognized as an international youth leader, drawing attention to the need for social and environmental justice. This summer, Pennsylvania State University and the American Philosophical Association named Erica an Iris Marion Young Diversity Scholar.

6 Name: Jori Kirk
Age: 32
Category: Business and Leadership



Jori grew up in Climax, Sask. and received a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Calgary. He is the founder of Cypress Hills Eco-Adventures Ltd., an adventure-based tourism business and the only zipline canopy tour in the province. The business is a success, winning multiple awards including Rookie of the Year at the 2011 Tourism Saskatchewan Awards of Excellence. Jori is passionate about business, tourism and the province. His company provides the volunteer technical crew for Easter Seals Drop Zone events in the province, and donates one per cent of its revenues to environmental organizations.

7 Name: Candace Bloomquist
Age: 35
Category: Sports and Recreation

Growing up in Nebraska, Candace developed her leadership skills through sports. She was a high school athlete in track and field and an NCAA basketball player at Creighton University. Now, she is leaving her mark on Canadian football as the starting quarterback of the Saskatoon Valkyries. Candace is the first female quarterback in North America to lead her team to three consecutive Western Women's Canadian Football League championships. In 2010, Candace earned a PhD in kinesiology from the University of Saskatchewan. She currently works with the Saskatoon Health Region promoting fitness for youth.

8 Name: Jason Lien
Age: 34
Category: Business and Entrepreneurship

As a first generation Saskatchewanian from Malaysia, Jason was instilled with the value of hard work at a young age. He currently heads the growth and business development unit for Federated Co-operatives Limited. It was a busy year as Jason led the acquisition of several agri-products centres for the company. Jason is a graduate from the University of Regina and has also had the opportunity to participate in an executive management program with Harvard Business School instructors. Previously, he has worked for major corporations, including IBM, and always demonstrates an affinity for community-minded initiatives.

9 Name: Sheldon Merriman
Age: 22
Category: Community Leadership

From a young age, Sheldon wanted to help people. At 13, he went to Albania with Teen Missions to help rebuild an orphanage. After high school, he remained involved with charity work and also received a discipleship certificate from the Canadian Mennonite University. Sheldon now works in his hometown of La Ronge, Sask. at the Scattered Sites Outreach Program as their energetic co-ordinator, making sure those who are homeless have essential services. He is collaborating with the town of La Ronge and Lac La Ronge Indian Band to bring Habitat for Humanity to the region.

10 Name: Mairin Loewen
Age: 30
Category: Politics

In 2011, Mairin became one of the youngest elected city councillors in Saskatoon. She sits on numerous boards and committees, including the Meewasin Board of Directors and the Saskatoon Public Library Board. She also serves as chair of the city's Planning and Operations Committee. Mairin earned a Bachelor's degree in political science in 2005 from Carleton University and completed her master's thesis in 2013 at the University of Saskatchewan. She is an active volunteer and enjoys staying involved in the local music community.

Armed Crimean self-defence forces stand outside the Training Centre of the Naval Forces of Ukraine while taking over its control in Sevastopol, Crimea on Wednesday. ANDREW LUBIMOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukraine bows to Russia's Crimea annexation

Following the referendum. Putin signed a treaty on Tuesday to incorporate Crimea into Russia

Surrendering to Russia's inexorable seizure of Crimea, Ukraine announced plans Wednesday for mass troop withdrawals from the strategic peninsula as Moscow-loyal forces seized control of Kyiv's naval headquarters here and detained its commander.

Attempting to face down the unblinking incursion, Ukraine said it would hold joint military exercises with the United States and Britain.

Hours after masked Russian-speaking troops forced their way onto Ukraine's main naval base here, forlorn Ukrainian soldiers streamed out carrying clothing and other belongings in bags. A group of local militia and Cossacks, later joined by officers from Russia's Black Sea Fleet, looked on.

Just how many retreating troops Ukraine will have to absorb in what amounts to a military surrender of Crimea was unclear. Many servicemen have already switched sides to Russia, but authorities said they were prepared to relocate as many as 25,000 soldiers and their families to the Ukrainian mainland.

Humbled but defiant, Ukraine lashed out symbolically at Russia by declaring its intent to leave the Moscow-dominated Commonwealth of Independent States, a loose alliance of 11 former Soviet nations. The last nation to leave the group was Georgia, which lost a brief war with neighbouring Russia in 2008 and ended up losing two separatist territories.

Vice-President Joe Biden, in Lithuania trying to reassure nations bordering Russia alarmed by the sight of an expansion-minded neighbour, said the U.S. would stand by them.

"We're in this with you, together," Biden said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trapped

Thousands of Ukrainian soldiers and sailors are trapped on military bases, surrounded by heavily armed Russian forces.

- The Kyiv government said it was drawing up plans to evacuate its troops.

Kosovo and Crimea

Putin's justification

Vladimir Putin's key argument justifying Crimea's secession from Ukraine and annexation by Russia is the West's acceptance of Kosovo's declaration of statehood in 2008. Kosovo and Crimea both sought independence against the wishes of their central governments but the two situations have many differences. With the strong support of the United States, the ethnic Albanian-dominated Kosovo seceded from Serbia over Serbia's strong objections. Russia, a historic Slavic ally of the Serbs, at the time argued that the Kosovo declaration was a serious breach of international law that could lead to a series of statehood claims elsewhere in the world. Enter Crimea, Ukraine's strategic Black Sea peninsula. After Crimean residents voted overwhelmingly Sunday to secede and join Russia, Putin is invoking the precedent of Kosovo to justify the vote while the West insists the ballot is invalid.

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Toyota hit with record $1.2B penalty in U.S.

Largest of its kind. While feds settled with Japanese automaker over safety issues that became public in 2009, a criminal charge was filed

The U.S. government announced a $1.2 billion US settlement with Toyota Motor Corp. on Wednesday and filed a criminal charge alleging the company defrauded consumers by issuing misleading statements about safety issues in Toyota and Lexus vehicles. The penalty is the largest of its kind ever imposed on an auto company, the Justice Department said.

The action concludes a years-long criminal investigation into the Japanese automaker's disclosure of safety problems, which focused on whether Toyota was forthright in reporting problems of unintended acceleration troubles.

The company admitted to misleading consumers and regulators in providing assurances that it had addressed the problems — which became public in 2009 following a car crash in San Diego that killed a family of four — through a limited safety recall of certain models. Toyota knew at the time that other models susceptible to the same acceleration problem had not been recalled and also took steps to conceal a separate acceleration problem related to a faulty pedal, according to the Justice Department. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Toyota Camry is shown after it crashed in 2010. Police suspect problems with the Camry's accelerator or floor mat caused the crash that left two people dead and two others injured. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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Port Metro Vancouver

Back-to-work legislation being prepped in B.C.

The government and Port Metro Vancouver aren't waiting to hammer out a deal with striking truckers and their union.

B.C.'s government is prepping back-to-work legislation to get 250 Unifor truckers to resume moving containers at the port, which has a massive backlog due to a three-week long strike. METRO IN VANCOUVER

Market Minute

DOLLAR 88.93¢ (-0.86¢)

TSX 14,334.04 (-34.94)

OIL $100.37 US (+$0.67)

GOLD $1,341.30 US (-$17.70)

Natural gas: $4.47 US (no change)
Dow Jones: 16,222.17 (-114.02)

Remote control obsolete? Chromecast lets users flip the channel via devices

Canadian Netflix and YouTube users looking for a cheap and easy way to stream content on their big screen TVs will finally be able to buy Google's Chromecast device starting on Wednesday.

Originally launched in the U.S. last July, the small $39 gadget plugs into a TV's HDMI port and is powered either through a TV's USB connection or by plugging into an electrical outlet.

The Chromecast doesn't come with a remote. Instead, users control streaming content on their TV with phone or tablet apps or via the Google Chrome web browser on a computer.

"I think what's really resonated with consumers is using their personal devices as a controller. That's something that we bet on and we've seen that bet come to fruition," said Chromecast product manager Raunaq Shah during a media preview in Toronto on Tuesday.

The Chromecast quickly sold out after it was first released in the U.S. and continued to be tough to find in stores.

Shah said that won't be a problem with the Canadian launch and consumers should have no issues purchasing one through Amazon.ca or the Google Play store.

"It will be easy to get," he said, and added that Google is also hoping to get the Chromecast in Canadian stores.

"We're working with a number of (companies) trying to get more partners on board as soon as we can."

While the Chromecast was first launched in the U.S. with a coupon for three free months of Netflix, that offer will not be available in Canada.

Users can also stream Google Play purchases onto their TV with the Chromecast, watch music videos through Vevo and listen to music via Songza. Another feature — which is currently in beta, so Google doesn't promise it'll work perfectly — allows users to beam the content of any Chrome tab onto a TV.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SOCIAL MEDIA ETIQUETTE FOR DUMMIES

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

I get in Facebook fights often.

I try to be civil, but then someone will post about Phil Kessel or Joffrey Baratheon or the Judeo-Christian God and suddenly I need to let the world know why their take on the individual in question is hopelessly wrong.

Digital progress has allowed me an emotional throwback. Social media is where I can revive the rip-roaring bull sessions that used to happen at house parties in my 20s when the smell of pot was in the air, half the guests were face down in the nacho dip, and those still conscious would talk about Big Questions. Why are we on Earth? Who shot JFK? Who's better — Kirk or Picard? Did Kirk and/or Picard shoot JFK? There was a lot of drinking.

Now I can have the same sort of debates without staying up late or buying my own alcohol. (I bought my own at least twice).

Arguing without angering friends or followers can be tricky, of course, so there are rules I follow for using social media with tact. Some involve arguing, while others are just about comporting myself well online.

As with all social-media arguments, I believe my advice is Absolute Truth and anyone who disagrees is an idiot worthy of scorn. It's just the way things are done online.

John's Guide to Online Civility

Part I: Fighting Tips

- As in real life, the soundest way to deal with a fight on Facebook is to sigh heavily, clap slowly and say, "Oh, good point."
- Follow up all death threats with a smiley face to show you're probably joking.
- Whoever posts the last comment in an angry argument thread wins.
- You can avoid direct confrontation with passive aggression. For example, say a friend's status says, "I like peanut butter," you might write "You're an idiot" and you'd lose a friend. But if you write, "Anybody who likes peanut butter is an idiot" you have plausible deniability.

Part II: General Rules

- Remember that writing an offensive or ignorant tweet is one of the quickest ways for aspiring writers to get published in the Huffington Post.
- Employers commonly look at prospective workers' social media. If you must post photos of yourself heavily drinking, try to drink products from companies you might like to work for some day.
- To avoid annoying friends, try to reach a one-to-one ratio in statuses between petty whining and obnoxious bragging.
- If you must announce a death before notifying next of kin, be sure to tag it SPOILERS.

The rules in Part II might actually help you avoid arguments, if you're into that sort of thing. But regardless of whether you prefer to duke it out or play it cool, remember: Facebook and Twitter are public forums. If you must rant and don't want anyone to know, try Google Plus.

Last word!

ZOOM

Fancy a round trip to N.Y.C.?

RANDY SCOTT SLAVIN/REX FEATURES

Photograph turns city topsy-turvy

This mind-bending image of North Cove Marina in New York City will have you in a spin. The surreal landscape was created by photographer Randy Scott Slavin, who used a clever photographic technique to contort the panorama to jaw-dropping effect. METRO

Q & A

Inspiration and challenges

What's your inspiration?
My work has evolved from a love of landscape photography and dis-orientating artwork of M.C. Escher. A friend introduced me to Escher's images in elementary school and it left an indelible mark on my taste ever since.

How is the photography challenging for you?
You have to wait for the right light and in the process deal with everything that mother nature has to offer.

Snap happy

100

individual photographs were used to create the 360-degree composite image. Using picture-editing software, Slavin stitched the photos together to produce a stereographic projection (the mapping of a spherical image onto a flat plane).

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Metro Online

SCREEN GRAB

After reaching peak Flappy Bird last month, the teeming masses of the Internet have been on the lookout for the next game capable of making frustration fun. Fortunately, a 19-year-old developer has stepped up to the plate with 2048, a few lines of open-source code that resembles a math nerd's version of Candy Crush. The original game can be found at gabrielecirulli.github.io/2048, but there are also a host of goofy remixes that are more fun — or at least more weird — to play.

Doge 2048:
So 2048. Much difficulty. Wow. (doge2048.com)

Doctor Who 2048:
This game replaces the numbers of the original 2048 with various portraits of the actors who have portrayed the Time Lord. If you can build up to Matt Smith, you win! (games.usvsth3m.com/2048-doctor-who-edition)

4:
If you find 2048 too hard, try 4. If you can't win in two moves, you might want to check with your doctor. (ehzhang.github.io/4/)

2048 3D:
2048 in three dimensions. I can't even. (joppi.github.io/2048-3D/)

Twitter

@metropicks asked: A smartwatch that uses Google Now was announced. What would you want your smartwatch to be able to do?

@Canucklehead_ca: Come up with funny responses to questions immediately. (See also: delay last call.)

@TrevorMarr: ToDo list w/ GPS proximity reminder so I don't go past store/shop w/out picking up item I needed. #IWasJustThere

@redsultan: Do basic chores while I'm asleep. Project a 3D holographic image if me to replace me at exams, awkward meetings.

@mtlkeith: Tell me I am eligible for retirement!

@EvanDentremont: I have a smart watch. It already does everything. Incoming calls, emails, texts, blackjack (seriously)

@mitch_waugh: why the need for a "smart watch", when we all carry around our smart phones anyways.

Follow @metropicks

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Send us your comments: reginaletters@metronews.ca

metro

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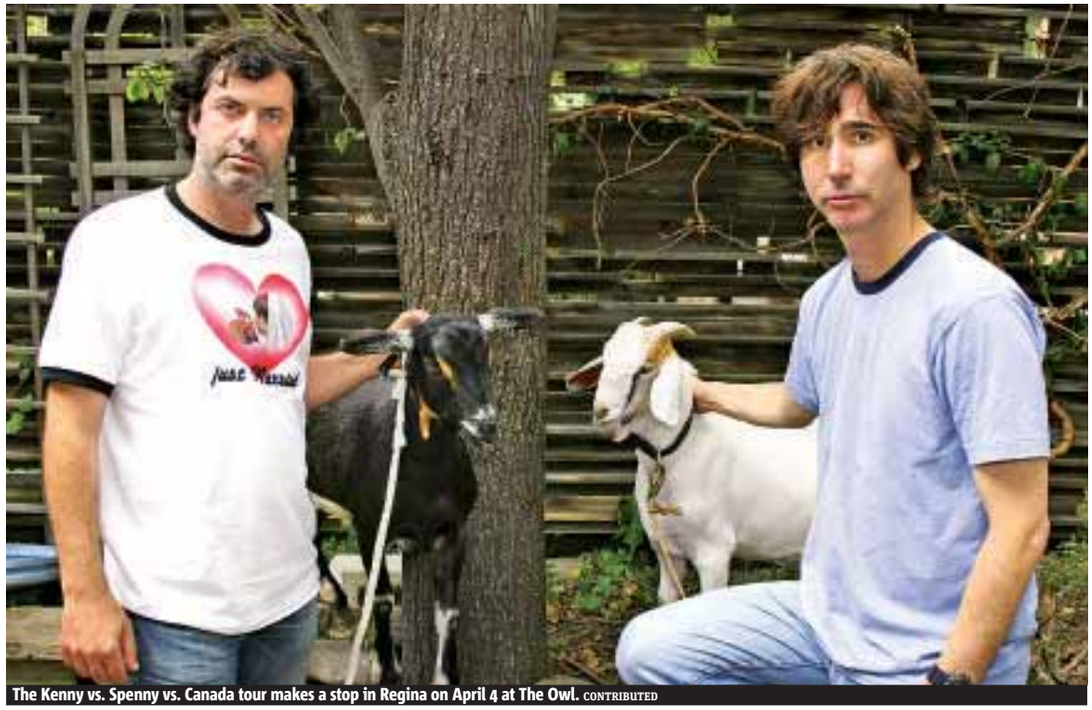
Kenny vs. Spenny takes on Canada — in living colour

Comedy tour. Their insanely popular show may not be on air right now, but these self-proclaimed "40-year-old idiots" can still boast a cult following

BACKSTAGE PASS
Simon Hiatt
saskatoon@metronews.ca



The Kenny vs. Spenny vs. Canada tour makes a stop in Regina on April 4 at The Owl. CONTRIBUTED

Many adjectives have been used to describe comedian and television personality Kenny Hotz, but modest likely isn't among them.

When asked about his landmark television show Kenny vs. Spenny, Hotz has some strong opinions.

"I truly think it's the funniest show in the history of television, it had more laughs per minute than any show in history. I watched people fall off of couches watching our show and I'm really proud of it," Hotz said in a telephone interview.

The high opinion of his work may be justified; the show, which featured a competition between Hotz and Spencer Rice and culminated in the loser being humiliated, has been broadcast around the world and has spawned several international versions, while becoming a cult classic in the duo's home country of Canada.

The success of the show may also somewhat justify Hotz's ire that it isn't still running.

"Broadcasters have been too stupid to pick up the show, one of the most popular shows ever in the country. That doesn't make sense for anybody. It has 200 million views on YouTube, it makes no sense. This country needs to be more profit motivated."

Hotz has been actively campaigning to be picked up by a network, but the controversial show has yet to find a home since going off the air waves in 2010.

For now, fans will have to content themselves with seeing Kenny vs. Spenny in person, as the duo is embarking on a Canadian club tour — including a pair of stops in Saskatchewan — featuring a question and answer session and behind the scenes footage.

In addition to looking forward to getting up close and personal with the fans, Hotz sees the live show as an opportunity to dispel one of the myths about the TV version.

"It always bugged me that people thought the show was fake when it's so real. If you're a fan, you'll be so relieved to finally meet us and see that it's all real and it validates the content."

Hotz believes there is enough material that if it were to return, the TV show could run for 500 episodes, a good 415 more than have aired to this point. And he says it would only get better as it went along. "Our show gets funnier because it's more pathetic. The fatter and older we get the funnier the show is because it's just so horrific that these two 40-year-old idiots would do something like this to each other."

Silver screen?

• **What's next.** While Kenny vs. Spenny hasn't found a TV home, it could end up on a larger screen, as there is talk of making a movie. "I'm ready to do it, the time may be right. It would be Kenny vs. Spenny 2.0, on acid. It would be like an episode but bigger and badder and crazier," Kenny Hotz said.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

LiLo's sex list Blooming with names

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Everyone! Important news! More names on Lindsay Lohan's sex list have been revealed! And yes, you will want to know who they are.

Earlier in the month, I told you about In Touch's "world exclusive" report, in which the mag somehow got a hold of Lindsay Lohan's handwritten conquest list. Heath Ledger, Adam Levine, Zac Efron, Justin Timberlake, Joaquin Phoenix, Colin Farrell, Evan Peters, Wilmer Valderrama and Jamie Dornan all made the cut, for better or worse. However, some of the names were blanked out for what everyone assumed were legal reasons — but now we know it was just a clever way for In Touch to drag the story on for as long as possible.

The new batch of names include Ashton Kutcher, Orlando Bloom, Benicio Del Toro, Ryan Phillippe, rugby player Danny Cipriani, NHL player Aaron Voros and director Josh Mond. So, there you go. Everyone famous who Lindsay Lohan has had sex with. The only person who is missing is Danny DeVito. And at this point, he probably didn't make it because she couldn't figure out how to spell DeVito.

M.I.A. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Millions NFL is seeking from rapper still M.I.A.

Rapper M.I.A.'s feud with the NFL isn't going away, as the sports league has apparently been after her for two years to pay a $1.5 million US fine for flipping the bird during the 2012 halftime show, according to the Hollywood Reporter. And on top of that, the NFL is apparently looking for an additional $15.1 million US as "restitution" because of how much exposure the incident garnered M.I.A. The NFL maintains that her stunt was a "flagrant disregard for the values that form the cornerstone of the NFL brand and the Super Bowl" and that she breached an agreement to maintain the league's "reputation of wholesomeness," a charge her legal team finds laughable. "The claim for restitution lacks any basis in law, fact or logic," her reps says. "The continued pursuit of this proceeding is transparently an exercise by the NFL intended to bully and make an example of (M.I.A.) for daring to challenge the NFL." The rapper at least has a sense of humour about it, asking fellow halftime show performer Madonna if she could borrow $16 million in a tweet that was later deleted.

Does Jason have a service dog?

Every dog owner has had a momentary flash of jealousy toward service dogs. Why does someone else get to bring his dog inside a restaurant, they think, while my precious baby has to wait in the car? Some owners even create false service dog badges and jackets for their darlings — temptingly easy to do. Now, it seems that Jason Schwartzman's dog Arrow has temporarily joined the service dog ranks.

Grand Budapest Hotel star Schwartzman was recently in Austin for SXSW, with French bulldog Arrow in tow. Master and pup were spotted in the Austin airport preparing to board a flight, and Arrow was wearing a service dog badge, according to Page Six.

So what service is Arrow providing to Schwartzman? Hard to say. Service dogs are used for a variety of conditions, not all of which are visible to the naked eye. However, there are numerous photos of Schwartzman and Arrow out and about together, with no sign of a service badge in sight. Maybe Arrow's a recent grad from his training — or maybe Schwartzman just didn't want to relegate his furry friend to a crate.

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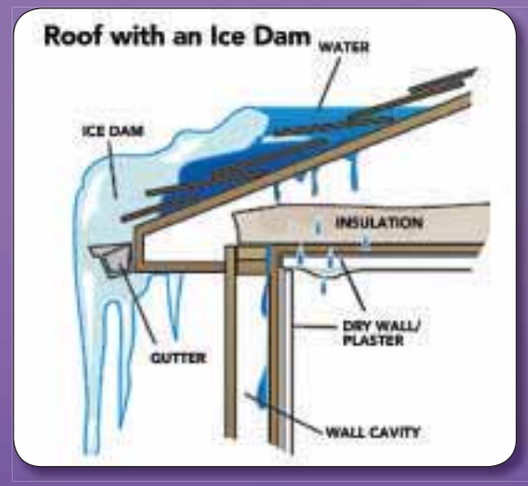

An ice dam can occur when snow accumulates on the roof of a house with inadequate insulation. Heat conducted through the insufficient insulation warms the roof and melts the snow on those areas of the roof that are above living spaces, but does not melt the snow on roof overhangs. Eventually, ice accumulates along the eave and in the gutter. Snow that melts later cannot drain properly through the ice on the eave and in the gutter, resulting in leaks which lead to damaged ceilings, walls, roof structures and insulation. There is no better time to protect your home.

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LIFE 3

Keeping it Karl and collected

The shades of showmanship. In the wake of his new flagship store opening and perfume launch, we sat down with Karl Lagerfeld to talk about street style, scents and his ever-growing list of projects

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News

'This is why I don't do selfies. I hate selfies! It's too wide, it's too wide! Take the light away. Okay, I'll go to the shelf over there,' Karl Lagerfeld says.

We're in a hotel suite in Mayfair, London, and I'm following him from one corner of the room to another as we search for good lighting and the right angle for the perfect selfie.

'Oh wait,' he gives my iPhone back to me, 'Please turn it. I can only see you. I can take a selfie of you, hmmm?' Karl then settles for a softly lit spot next to a bookshelf.

He looks remarkably spry and energetic considering that he's just gotten off a plane from Paris for a quick trip here to celebrate the launch of his first flagship store in the UK for his eponymous clothing line and his new perfume range, which is now available in stores globally.

He plans to fly back as soon as the parties are over. ('He doesn't like to be away from Choupette for too long,' one of his team members tells me.) But first there is an interview to do and selfies to take. 'I think they're electronic masturbation,' he says. But he does one for us anyway.

Click and clothe: Karl Lagerfeld's new store in London has iPads built into its changing room walls so customers can take selfies while they shop.
PROVIDED

Death to all things dull

"The only thing that tires me is when I'm bored. Boredom is the most tiring thing. Perhaps people have boring lives. I have no time for that, eh?"

You've opened a new store and launched a new perfume. This is a big week for you.
This is a big week but I'm used to this kind of week so I don't consider them really big. For me it's a normal week. I do so many things at the same time. I do photos. I work on the collections to come, cruise and all that. For me, something like a launch in Paris is almost like recreation for me. Because it's different from the normal daily discipline and work.

Well, I think that in addition to bottling your perfume you should bottle your energy and sell that in your stores.
Yes, but I need it myself so I can't sell those bottles, hmm? My energy in a way improved with age. When I was very young I had very low blood pressure and was tired all the time. Now, I'm just tired to go to bed and sleep. But I'm not tired in the rest of the day. The only thing that tires me is when I'm bored. Boredom is the most tiring thing. Perhaps people have boring lives. I have no time for that, eh?

Karl and Kenya's successful selfie.
KENYA'S PHONE

Your clothes are obvious hits on the street style circuit. What do you say to those who argue that street style culture has gone too far?
This is a fake problem. Everything changes. I think in today's world there's also big change in magazines and in the collections. We live in the middle of change. Look at how the world has changed since this and all that. The computer has changed it all. Fashion is about change and the world is about change too. The changes in the world are not as quick as the changes in fashion. But we are in the middle of a huge change. I say, don't compare the present to the past if you want to survive happily in the next period. You have to adapt. Times don't have to adapt to you. And then you start to say, 'Oh the good old days'. And then you're over.

Before we go, any dos and don'ts for habitual perfume wearers?
I wear several perfumes at the same time. You know why? Because if you only use one you don't smell it anymore. And then you put so much on that other people nearly faint when they see you, while you don't think you smell at all. So it's good for the nose to change. And then there are perfumes that I like to put on sheets and curtains.

Where do you normally like to wear it? Behind the ear, on your wrist?
Only on the clothes. Never on the skin. That's not the best thing to do. Even today it's less dangerous than in the past. In the past it was dangerous you know? In the past if you used bergamot and then went into the sun, you got sun spots. That's why women used to put it behind the ears because it's a place that the sun won't touch. I hate to have sun spots on my hands, that's why I wear the gloves. You have to take care of these things, you know? You don't have this kind of problem but I have.

Karl! You've done so many things.
Never enough.

You once said that you would never put your name to toilet paper.
I haven't been proposed with that kind of project yet and I don't think it's that chic but it's stuff everybody needs so that could change my mind.

Trends Report

Ugly shoes are set to be the next big trend this spring, seen all over the runways at Milan and Paris fashion weeks. Go online to Trends Report and take a look at the 'ugly' shoes, which seem to go after comfort first, and let me know — would you choose heels or step into a pair of these?

- **Online.** Follow Irene on Twitter at @MetroIreneK or Instagram: kuanirene; metronews.ca/voices/trends-report

Photo: Getty Images

Twitter

JEANNE SPACE
Jeanne Beker
life@metronews.ca

TWITTER HAS BECOME A COOL AND SUCCINCT WAY OF COMMUNICATING. IT ALLOWS ME TO BE ACCESSIBLE, INSTANTLY SPEAK MY MIND AND CONNECTS ME WITH ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE. WHETHER IT'S A FASHION QUESTION OR YOU JUST WANT TO COMMENT ON LIFE'S BIGGER PICTURE, I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Adored @LINEknitwear @WMCFashionWeek. So much scope! Varied textures, croc embossed leather, slinky angora. Lush+sexy

Imaginative texturing and a nod toward future femininity at #MikhaelKale

Cookbook of the Week

Spice up your life

The latest release from Bal Arneson, Bal's Spice Kitchen, has a two-fold premise: spice is the key to delicious cooking and making flavourful meals doesn't need to be time consuming. Using traditional Indian recipes as her inspiration, Arneson shows chefs how to complement their dishes with new spice combinations. With a guide to creating your own spice mixtures, recipes include: Mango and Cardamom Soup, Mixed Lentils with Eggplant, Tandoori Baked Chicken and more. METRO

Infusion of Indian ingredients

Rib-eye Steak with Toasted Coriander Blue Cheese. The combination of exotic spices and jazzed up cheese is drool worthy

"When I ask for prime beef, my local butcher knows that it better have been dry-aged for at least 40 days," writes Bal Arneson in her book Bal's Spice Kitchen. "It is often difficult to find well-aged meat, but once you try it you will know exactly what I am talking about. Infused with the spices I chose ... this is a rare treat for your guests or for you. I have cooked this several times just for myself and thoroughly enjoyed it with a nice glass of red wine."

1. Steak masala: In a skillet, toast the cumin seeds, fennel seeds, mustard seeds and peppercorns on medium-low heat until the spice aromas fill the air, about 30 seconds. Turn off the heat and let the pan cool. Process the spices in a spice grinder until coarsely ground, then add the fenugreek leaves, paprika, chili flakes and salt, and give the grinder a spin.

2. Preheat the grill to medium-high. Sprinkle the steak masala on the steaks. Gently place the steaks on the heated grill and cook for about 3 to 5 minutes on each side for medium steaks, or to your preferred doneness. Let them sit for a few minutes before serving.

3. Toasted coriander blue cheese: Toast the coriander seeds on low heat in a skillet for 30 seconds. Let them cool, then crush them with your hands. In a bowl, thoroughly combine the coriander seeds, blue cheese and paprika.

4. Sautéed asparagus: In a saucepan, heat the oil on medium-high. Add the garlic and cook for 30 seconds. Add the asparagus and salt and pepper and cook, stirring frequently, until the asparagus is tender, about 10 to 12 minutes.

5. To plate the dish: Place the asparagus on a plate. Slice the cooked steaks and crumble Toasted Coriander Blue Cheese on top. EXCERPTED FROM BAL'S SPICE KITCHEN (WHITECAP, 2014)

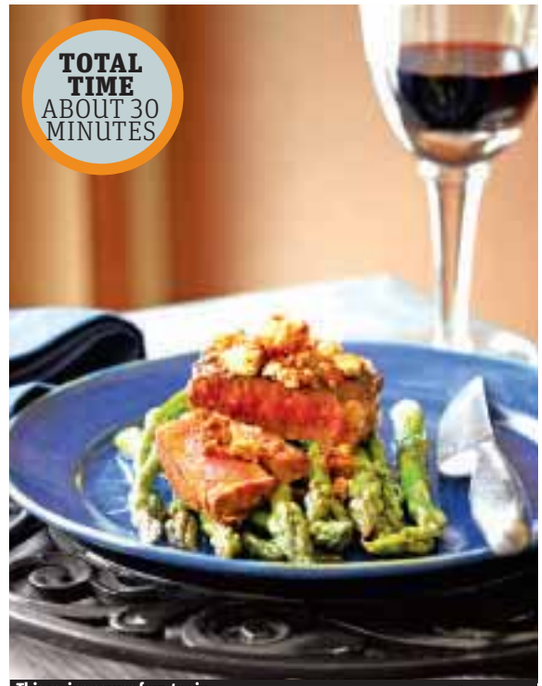
Ingredients

Steak Masala
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) cumin seeds
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) fennel seeds
- 1 tsp (5 ml) brown mustard seeds
- 1 tsp (5 ml) black peppercorns
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) fenugreek leaves
- 1 tsp (15 ml) smoked paprika
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) red chili flakes
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) salt

Steak
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) steak masala
- four 6 oz (175 g) dry-aged rib-eye steak (I prefer 1 1/2-inch/4 cm thick)

Toasted Coriander Blue Cheese
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) coriander seeds
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) blue cheese
- 1 tsp (5 ml) smoked paprika

Sautéed Asparagus
- 1 tbsp (5 ml) cooking oil
- 1 tbsp (5 ml) chopped garlic
- 1 lb (500 g) asparagus, hard ends removed
- salt and pepper to taste



This recipe serves four to six. TRACEY KUSIEWICZ FOR BAL'S SPICE KITCHEN (WHITECAP, 2014)

Creative ways to rehab your rubbish

DIY. Give wooden salvage a second life with four ideas that turn junk into gems

Every homeowner is guilty of abandoning old home furnishings that were left to collect dust.

Don't wait any longer to rescue your forgotten gems from the dust bunnies in the back of your closet, attic or garage.

Consider transforming odds and ends into helpful household items which can be both cost effective and practical. You may discover that even the most seemingly useless items can be functional again with a little inspiration and a touch of creativity.

Salvage Dawgs

- For more DIY ideas on salvaging old finds, tune into Salvage Dawgs, Tuesdays at 9:30 p.m. on DIY Network Canada.

4 ways to repurpose household items

When opportunity knocks

Give your morning coffee and newspaper a place to relax by repurposing an old wooden door into a new coffee table. First, sand down the wood to ensure that there are no rough areas that may cause splinters or harm and then either paint or stain the wood. Next, salvage legs of the same length from old furniture, or make your own, and attach them to the bottom. Choose a rustic look by leaving it bare, or give it a sophisticated touch with the addition of a glass top.

Solve your window panes

Never forget to pick up groceries again by turning a plain window frame into a versatile cork board. Use double-sided tape to fasten cork behind the window frame and mount it on a wall in your home. Use push pins to post notes, grocery lists and reminders as well as pictures to add a personal touch to your home. For additional convenience, consider adding a shelf to set down your house and car keys.

Stairway to spick and span

Organize your front hall area and impress your guests by showing off a new convenient coat rack created from an old stairway banister. Simply coat the wood with a splash of paint, attach the banister to a sturdy stand, add some hooks, and you'll have a new home for coats and accessories.

Shutter the clutter

If your mail pile is mayhem, consider the shutter solution by converting wooden window shutters into a practical mail and letter holder. The shutter solution is a great way to give your home a pop of colour or to experiment with stencilling for a unique design. Once you have decided on the design, mount the shutter to your desired area and watch the cluttered chaos disappear.

ALL PHOTOS ISTOCK

DON'T COMPROMISE ON YOUR NEW HOME

SELECT YOUR STYLE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD

CONTRIBUTED

Homeowners want the freedom to choose the home and location that suits their needs, and the Red Door Venture Group offers the perfect solution in Prairie Country Homes.

Prairie Country Homes give homebuyers their happy ending, says company spokesperson Jaimey Midtdal. With Prairie Country Homes, buyers select their preferred style from a range of four diverse floor plans, along with their choice of pre-approved neighborhoods.

"We want to make sure our buyers didn't have to compromise on either their home model or location," Midtdal says. "The range of four homes is perfect for a variety of buyers, from those purchasing a home for the first time to more established buyers looking for room to grow."

Prairie Country Homes four models come CSA-approved, pre-built and move-in ready, so buyers don't have to wait to move into pre-approved neighbourhoods throughout southern Saskatchewan.

"Buyers of other developments often have to wait for more than a year for their new home to be completed," Midtdal says. "We wanted to do something different for our customers. We wanted customers to be able to get excited about their new home purchase — and then actually get to live there."

Prairie Country Homes' four practical floor plans range in size from 1,000 to 1,300 square feet, Midtdal says.

Athabasca, Greenwater, Rowan and Cypress all feature two- or three-bedroom floor plans. With the largest area, Athabasca features a master bedroom with walk-in closet. Greenwater features three bedrooms, one bath and a large open kitchen with a walk-in pantry, which is perfect for families. For individuals or couples thinking about starting a family, Rowan includes two bedrooms with one bath and a practical main-floor laundry. For buyers looking for a simpler home, Cypress offers everything including three bedrooms and one bathroom, at a slightly smaller scale.

For more information, visit PrairieCountryHomes.ca. Homes are available now and ready to be moved in.

TURNING GOOD IDEAS INTO A PROFIT

For real estate developers and industry insiders, Saskatchewan's solid economic foundations make it the land of potential growth and opportunity.

"There is real estate potential as far as the eye can see in Saskatchewan," says Jaimey Midtdal, spokesperson for the Red Door Venture Group. "And it is potential that investors should be taking advantage of."

The Saskatchewan-based real estate marketing company is building on the province's solid economic foundations to provide a variety of the best-valued homes, Midtdal says.

The real estate sector considers the province's economic growth potential as a projection of its future wealth.

"Saskatchewan is the place where people from across the country want to live, work and grow," she says.

"The boom in immigration and increased job opportunities are making Saskatchewan one of the best places in Canada to buy a home. It's growth we're proud to be a part of. We turn good ideas into profit for our customers, while giving them the tools they need."

The Red Door Venture Group teams up with outstanding local developers to deliver high-quality developments across the province.

MONKEY BUSINESS IMAGES /SHUTTERSTOCK

"The amount of undeveloped land has attracted real estate developers who see a bright future and burgeoning economy," Midtdal says.

Saskatchewan's potential for development has opened up the real estate market for new and innovative opportunities, for both developers and buyers, Midtdal says.

"The province's solid economic foundation has allowed unprecedented growth in Saskatchewan and the real estate market has followed suit."

The Red Door Venture Group works with developers throughout their process, beginning at the land acquisition stage and continuing all the way through to the concept, design, and sales stages.

For more about Red Door Venture Group or to schedule a complimentary consultation, visit RedDoorVentureGroup.ca.

ENHANCE HOME'S APPEARANCE

As well as a living space, a home is a lifetime investment. It can grow in value over the years, making it important to protect and enhance its appearance.

Here are a few cost-effective ways to rejuvenate a home.

1 Kitchen. Many say the kitchen is the heart of the home, and kitchen cabinets can make or break the average kitchen. Avoid that dated look in cabinets and drawers with a simple paint job. Mixing up the colors can make a difference, too.

2 Paint the walls. A new coat of paint can brighten up any room. Painting is one of the most cost-effective ways to improve the look and value of a home, interior and exterior.

3 Lighting. Simple and clean lighting can go a long way to improving a home's appearance, especially if it replaces damaged or dated fixtures.

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Foucault ready to lay down the law

CFL. With 6-7, 300-pound frame, Carabins offensive tackle looking to make impression at combine

David Foucault of University of Montreal blocks for Pascal Lochard of Laval University during the CIS East West Bowl last May in London, Ont. DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

For David Foucault, it will be the ultimate job interview.

The Montreal Carabins towering offensive tackle will be someone to watch this weekend at the CFL combine in Toronto when many of the top-ranked draft prospects strut their stuff before league coaches and GMs.

"It's very important ... it's probably the most important job interview of my life," the six-foot-seven, 300-pound Foucault said in a telephone interview. "I'll need to do well in my drills and perform because all the teams will be there and will have questions for me.

"I believe I'm an athletic player, a big man, a strong man with long arms and good feet. I'll have to show my personality, skill and willingness to work hard."

Foucault and the other prospects will be measured and weighed Saturday as well as perform the bench press, vertical jump and standing jump. The following day they'll run the 40-yard dash as well as participate in one-on-one drills in helmets and shoulder pads.

CFL officials are already familiar with the 24-year-old native of LaSalle, Que. A criminology major, Foucault finished the season as the No. 3-ranked prospect for this year's draft by the league's Central Scouting Bureau.

McGill tackle Laurent Duvernay-Tardif, the No. 1 prospect, is skipping the combine to be fresh for his pro day next week in Montreal. So the spotlight will be firmly on Foucault and Laval offensive lineman Pierre Lavertu, who's ranked No. 2 overall.

That's fine with Foucault.

"In my mind I need to work hard and get better every day," he said. "No top player is perfect and I'm someone who focuses on every detail.

"I just concentrate on myself and what I do."

However, Foucault will carry the weight of expectation on his broad shoulders. Earlier this month, the converted defensive lineman posted a 33.5-inch vertical jump, 4.45-second shuttle run and standing broad jump of eight feet seven inches at a regional NFL combine in Tampa, Fla. Those results earned Foucault a spot in a super regional event next month in Detroit.

"That has given me the push to keep working harder every day and not stop," Foucault said. "My dream is to be a professional football player and if I get the chance to play in the NFL, that would be great.

"But I also need to do the best job I can at the CFL combine because I need to be consistent, I need to do better tests. That's what I need to show."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Yessir officer

"If I get drafted, I'll take a break from school and then start again because after football we do have a life. Maybe after 10 years (of pro football) being a police officer would be great."

Pro-football hopeful David Foucault

Curling

Canada on top at women's worlds

Canada's Rachel Homan downed South Korea's Ji-sun Kim 10-3 at the women's world curling championship Wednesday.

Homan's Ottawa Curling Club team moved atop the standings at 8-1 and had the evening draw off.

The top four teams at the conclusion of the preliminary round Thursday advance to playoffs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MMA

Humphries slides into UFC Octagon

Olympian Kaillie Humphries is moving from the bobsled track to the Octagon.

The 28-year-old Calgary native, who piloted Canada to gold at the Sochi Games in two-man bobsled, tweeted Tuesday that she would be at "The Ultimate Fighter Nations Finale" card on April 16 in Quebec City.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Stars Peverley has surgery after scary incident

The Dallas Stars say Rich Peverley has undergone successful surgery to correct an abnormal heart rhythm, just more than a week after the forward collapsed on the bench during a game.

Stars general manager Jim Nill says Peverley was released from the Cleveland Clinic on Wednesday, a day after surgery.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto staring pitcher A.J. Happ.
CHRIS SO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Blue Jays victims of Happenstance

J.A. Happ offered more questions than answers Wednesday in another rocky outing for the Toronto Blue Jays.

The six-foot-five left-hander, pencilled in as one of Toronto's starters, lasted just 2 2/3 innings in an 11-6 Grapefruit League win over the Philadelphia Phillies.

Happ threw 71 pitches, including 34 strikes in an appearance short on control on a day when pitching coach Pete Walker said the goal was "to get him in the strike zone."

"It's a big start for him," Walker added.

It did not go according to plan in Dunedin.

On the plus side, Jays slugger Jose Bautista hit a pair of two-run homers — his fourth and fifth home runs of the spring. And Melky Cabrera, who now has 19 hits in 45 spring at-bats, drove in two runs with two hits.

And one day after being thumped 18-4 by the Detroit Tigers, the Jays (8-10) rallied from a 3-0 deficit for the win over the Phillies (5-13).

With R.A. Dickey, Mark Buehrle and Brandon Morrow accounting for three-fifths of the starting rotation, the Jays have spent the spring looking for two more to join them.

While Drew Hutchison has been by far the best of the rest, the Jays have resisted appointing him to the rotation.

Happ carried an ERA of 40.50 into Wednesday's game, having given up six runs on six hits with five walks in 1 1/3 innings over two previous spring appearances. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Romero sent down

Ricky Romero, who is due to make $7.75 million US with the Jays in 2014, was sent to the minors Wednesday after walking five and throwing two wild pitches in 2 2/3 innings vs. Detroit on Tuesday.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
The Sun moves into your sign today, so there can be no more excuses. You know what you want, you know how to get it and you know that if you make a genuine effort nothing can stop you. The world is yours.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Cosmic activity in the most sensitive area of your chart means you may tend to fear the worst over the next few days, but that is quite natural. How good or how bad you feel is really up to you alone.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
There are so many positive influences for friendship at the moment that you would be a fool not to take advantage. If you need assistance in any way just open your mouth.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
If you want to move up in the world, it's time to get yourself noticed. It does not matter how much talent you have, what truly matters is that you have a clear goal in mind and that you go after it.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Nothing matters more than the truth and if you keep that in mind over the next few days, you won't go far wrong. The truth may at times be uncomfortable but that is not an excuse to ignore it.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
The Sun's change of signs means you need to change too. It also means you need to get rid of ideas you are comfortable with but which in are holding you back.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
There is no point trying to keep plans to yourself because loved ones and co-workers will find out about them. You have nothing to hide, so let them know what you are up to.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
It is one thing to be a hard worker but another to waste time and energy on tasks that mean nothing to you. Your aim today must be to decide what is important to you and what should be trashed.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
The Sun's move into your fellow Fire sign of Aries endows you with the kind of self-belief that moves mountains. There is a world out there waiting to be impressed by your brilliance.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You don't need to explain why you are doing certain things. Others will respect you more if you are confident about following your dreams. Don't complain. Don't explain. Don't apologize. Just act.

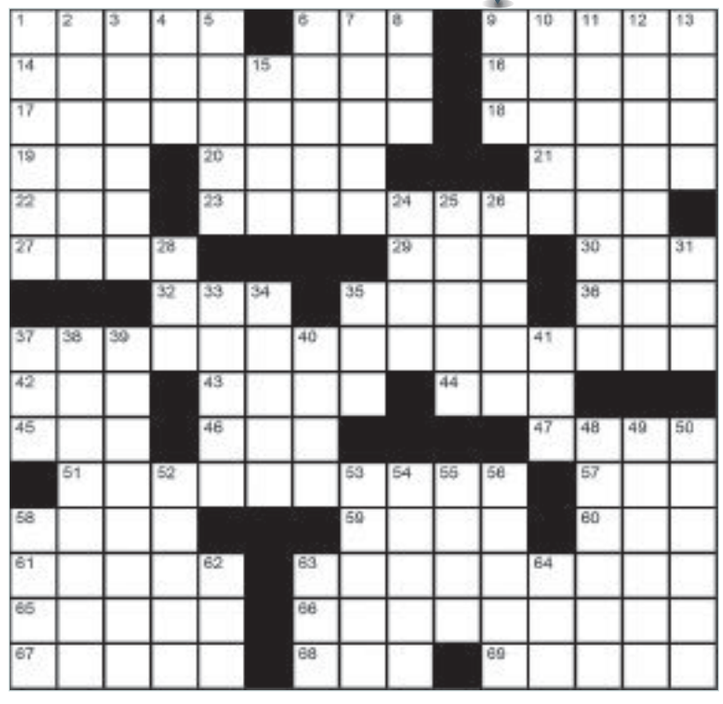
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The Sun moves in your favour today, making it easy to get your own way. Does that fill your head with ideas? It should, and each one of those ideas is entirely legitimate.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
There is not much point trying to appeal to someone's common sense when they are hell bent on following a course of action that is irrational. Let them get on with it and make sure you keep a safe distance between you. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

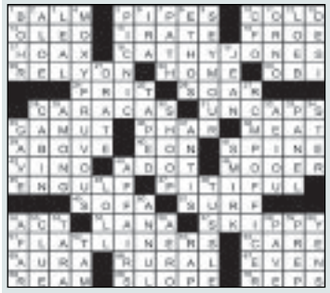
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Some citrus fruits
6. Food grain
9. 2250 the old way
14. Spring, in Sherbrooke
16. Family band from Lakefield, ON
17. Yukon's official tree, __ Fir
18. Hell's master
19. 'Speed' suffix
20. Strauss' Tausend und __ Nacht
21. Positioned horizontally
22. Nero's 551
23. Mid-coast of BC community, 'Home of the Rain People': 2 wds.
27. Gas station
29. Pot
30. Belief system
32. Ms. Thurman
35. During
36. Hide __ hair
37. Corb Lund and the __ __
42. __-locka, Florida
43. Increases
44. Picture
45. Puny paranormal power
46. Jersey's call
47. Hic, __, hoc
51. Nova Scotia town
57. Sight: French
58. Ancient colonnade
59. Decorative case
60. "Michael Collins" (1996) org.
61. Maison's entrance
63. Distinctions
65. "Our Father which __ __ heaven..."
66. Craigellachie, BC: Where the Canadian Pacific Railway's ceremonial __ __ was driven into the track in 1885
67. Do more lawn work
68. Tropical cuckoo
69. Set of three

Down
1. Advantage
2. Porridges
3. Ex __ (Book label)
4. Once __ __ lifetime
5. 'The Great' canonized pope, __. __
6. GNR's "Sweet Child __ __"
7. Sleep __
8. Blood-sucker, when doubled
9. Real estate database, commonly
10. AC/DC's "You Shook __ __ Night Long"
11. Type of salad dressing
12. "Beat This Heart" by Tim __ feat. Serena Ryder
13. Actress, Jamie-__ Sigler
15. Grand
24. Unfeeling
25. Restaurant side order
26. Outkast member, __ 3000
28. Away
31. "__. Doubtfire" (1993)
33. Florida locale
34. Sometimes, Off __ __
35. Montreal football players, to fans
37. Horticulturist's helper
38. American shipping company that has franchises in Canada, The _ _ _ __
39. Camaraderies
40. What Snoopy is, __ __
41. Word with Beatles ...how it's commonly mis-typed
48. "Addicted to You" Swedish DJ/producer
49. "I get it now!"
50. Discontinued
52. Mathematical proportion
53. Macho guy
54. "__ __ _." (Posh "Here's me!")
55. Theatre great, Alfred __
56. "Villain, thou __..." - Shakespeare
58. Box
62. Stop
63. Old music high note
64. American airer since '71

Yesterday's Crossword



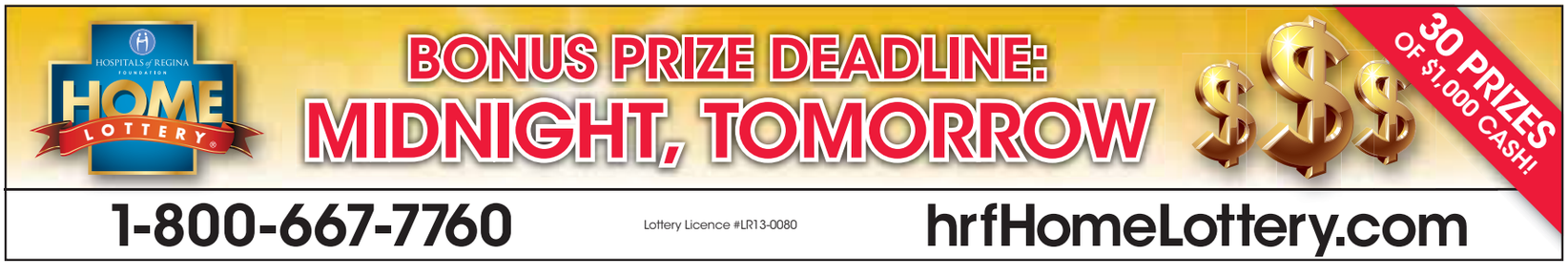
Sudoku

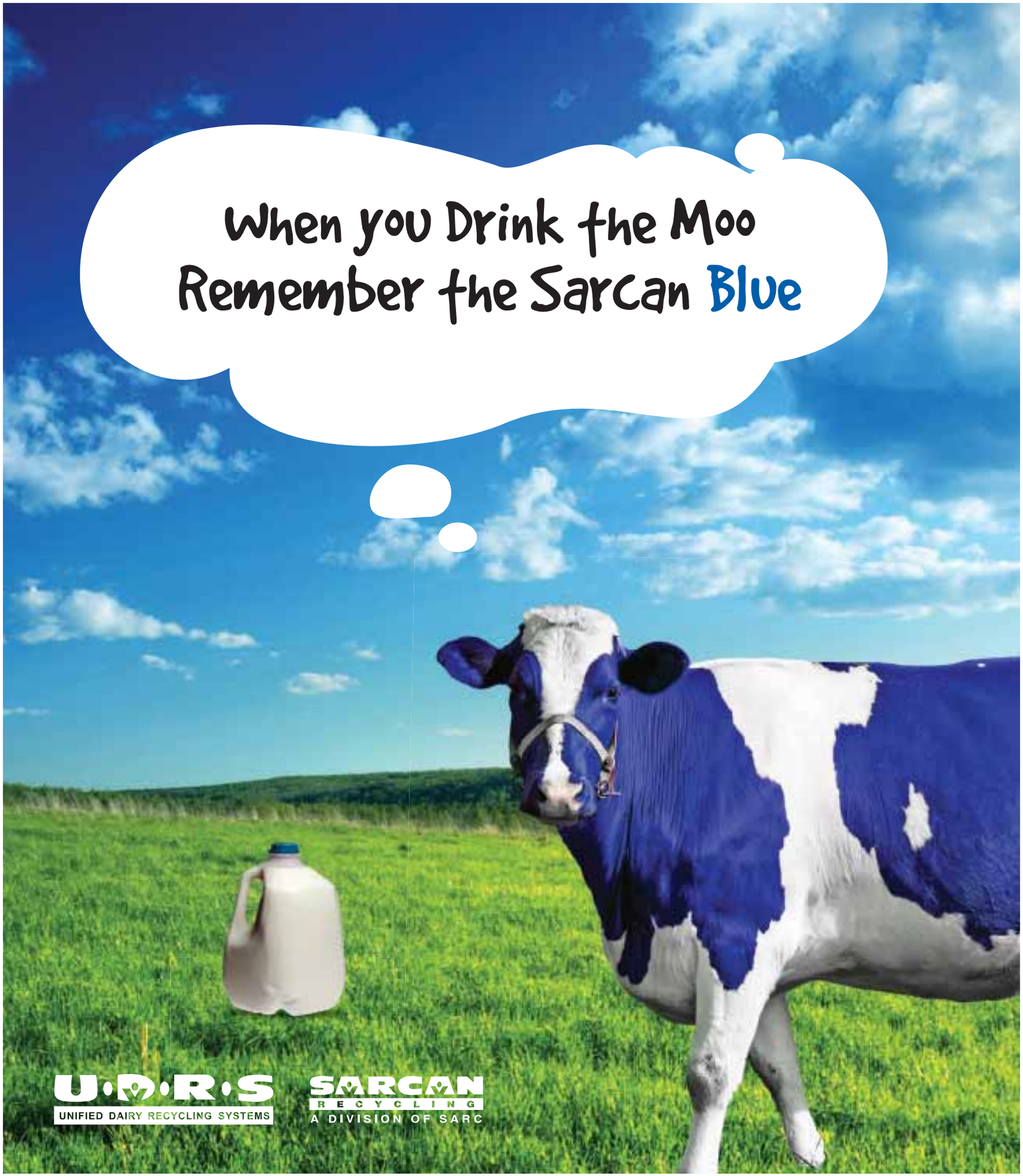
How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

2		7				9		5
	5	6	2		3	8	7	
4								3
			1		9			
	9			6			2	
			7		8			
9								6
	7	2	4		5	1	3	
8		3				5		2

Yesterday's Sudoku

9	4	8	7	2	6	5	1	3
7	1	6	9	3	5	8	4	2
3	5	2	1	4	8	6	9	7
2	7	5	8	6	1	4	3	9
1	8	4	2	9	3	7	5	6
6	9	3	4	5	7	1	2	8
5	6	9	3	8	4	2	7	1
4	2	1	6	7	9	3	8	5
8	3	7	5	1	2	9	6	4




When you Drink the Moo
Remember the Sarcan Blue
U·M·R·S
UNIFIED DAIRY RECYCLING SYSTEMS
SARCAN
RECYCLING
A DIVISION OF SARC